

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Robert G. Taub, Chairman;  
Michael Kubayanda, Vice Chairman;  
Mark Acton;  
Ann C. Fisher; and  
Ashley E. Poling

Competitive Product Prices  
Inbound E-format Letter Post

Docket No. CP2020-120

COMMISSION INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1

(Issued April 16, 2020)

To assist in the evaluation of the issues related to the Postal Service's notice of specific rates for its Inbound Letter Post Small Packets and Bulky Letters product effective January 1, 2021,<sup>1</sup> the Postal Service is requested to provide a written response to the following question. An answer should be provided as soon as practical, but no later than April 23, 2020.

On April 10, 2020, the Postal Service filed a notice of specific per-item and per-kilogram self-declared prices for Inbound Letter Post Small Packets and Bulky Letters. Notice at 1. The Postal Service states that it plans to notify the Universal Postal Union (UPU) International Bureau (IB) by June 1, 2020, of its self-declared rates, which it expects to go into effect on January 1, 2021. *Id.* at 2. The Postal Service states that UPU designated operators that will charge self-declared rates in Calendar Year (CY) 2021 for small packets and bulky letters originating in the United States and destined for

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<sup>1</sup> Notice of the United States Postal Service of Specific Rates Not of General Applicability for Inbound E-Format Letter Post for 2021, and Application for Non-Public Treatment, April 10, 2020 (Notice).

their respective countries must provide notice to the UPU IB of these prices by June 1, 2020. *Id.* After the Postal Service and other designated operators notify the UPU IB of their respective self-declared rates, the UPU IB will publish these rates by July 1, 2020. *Id.*

The Postal Service asserts that unsealing self-declared prices for Inbound Letter Post Small Packets and Bulky Letters before the UPU IB publishes the self-declared rates would provide designated operators “a significant, and inequitable, advantage . . . when conducting bilateral or multilateral negotiations with the Postal Service[.]” Notice, Attachment 1 (Application) at 6. In Docket Nos. MC2019-17 and CP2019-155, the Postal Service claimed that unsealing the self-declared rates applicable to certain Inbound Letter Post Small Packets and Bulky Letters for the second half of CY 2020 would result in similar commercial harms.<sup>2</sup> The Commission determined that the public interest of maintaining financial transparency of the Postal Service, a government establishment competing in commercial markets, by unsealing the self-declared rates outweighed the nature and extent of any likely commercial injury to the Postal Service from disclosure of the self-declared rates.<sup>3</sup>

The Commission directed the Postal Service to publicly file the self-declared rates seven days after the UPU IB published the rates. Order No.5451 at 34. On April 6, 2020, seven days after the UPU IB published the self-declared rates in IB Circular No. 51, the Postal Service publicly filed the self-declared rates with the Commission.<sup>4</sup>

Please confirm that the Postal Service would consent to unsealing the specific per-item and per-kilogram self-declared prices for Inbound Letter Post Small Packets

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<sup>2</sup> Compare Notice, Attachment 1 at 7-10 with Docket Nos. MC2019-17 and CP2019-155, Notice of Preliminary Determination to Unseal Self-Declared Rates for Inbound Letter Post Small Packets and Bulky Letters, January 23, 2020, at 6-7 (Order No. 5412).

<sup>3</sup> Docket Nos. MC2019-17 and CP2019-155, Final Determination to Unseal Self-Declared Rates for Inbound Letter Post Small Packets and Bulky Letters, March 9, 2020, at 25-26 (Order No. 5451).

<sup>4</sup> Docket Nos. MC2019-17 and CP2019-155, Notice of the United States Postal Service in Compliance with Order No. 5451, April 6, 2020, at 1; *id.* n.3.

and Bulky Letters that it expects to go into effect on January 1, 2021, seven days after the UPU IB publishes these self-declared rates.

By the Commission.

Erica A. Barker  
Secretary